



**Transcript for the webchat of 25 August 2011**  
**Non-Immigrant Visas**

**Transcript follows:**

Gareth: With an H1b visa, my UK passport expires before the visa expires. Most likely I will still be in the USA at the time working. Do I have to renew the passport in the US (at UK Embassy) and then get my visa transferred into the new passport? If so, how do I go about it? Will it mean flying back to England to renew the visa in the new passport?

\* U.S. Consular Officer: If the passport in which your visa has been endorsed has expired, the visa in the old passport still can be used, provided that you also carry a valid passport of the same nationality. Note: If, when canceling your old passport, the passport authority has clipped the corners of the passport, and, in so doing, has damaged the visa in any way, that visa is no longer valid and cannot be used for travel to the United States.

Youhua Chen: I applied for a visiting B-2 visa for visiting my uncle and filled in DS-160 for a nonimmigrant visa but I did not see a Visa Type for a normal visitor. So I chose international culture exchange (Q) as the Visa Type. Does that sound right?

\* U.S. Consular Officer: When completing the online visa application Form DS-160, you will be required to select "B-2 (tourist) visa" from the drop-down list. If you have completed the DS-160 incorrectly, you will either be required to access a saved/previously completed application and modify this or complete a new version of the form. Be advised, that you must print the correct confirmation sheet from your Form DS-160, which you will be required to furnish at the time of your visa interview.

Olga: Hi, I am going for my appointment next week, to get a tourist visa, hoping to go in Oct this year, my passport expires next Apr, does this mean that if I get a visa for half a year I can only travel in Oct this year, so that it's not beyond 6 months?

\* U.S. Consular Officer: A nonimmigrant visa applicant must present a passport or other valid travel document valid for at least six months beyond the holder's period of stay in the United States, with at least one blank page. NOTE: Some countries have an agreement with the United States to extend the validity of their passports for an additional six months after expiration. To see if your country of nationality is included in this agreement, please refer to:  
<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/104770.pdf>

If the passport in which your visa has been endorsed has expired, the visa in the old passport still can be used, provided that you also carry a valid passport of the same nationality.



However, if when canceling your old passport, the passport authority has clipped the corners of the passport, and, in so doing, has damaged the visa in any way, that visa is no longer valid and cannot be used for travel to the United States.

4. Dave Doonan: If I (A British Citizen) am transiting the USA from UK to NZ via Los Angeles with a three hour stopover on the outbound and return AirNZ flights, which visa do I need?

\* U.S. Consular Officer: If qualified, you may be eligible to travel visa free to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program. For full details of the relevant qualification criteria, please refer to the Embassy website, at: <http://london.usembassy.gov/vwp.html>

Travelers in transit through the United States who do not qualify to travel visa free under the Visa Waiver Program require valid C-1 visas. For further information, please refer to the Embassy website, at: <http://london.usembassy.gov/transit.html>

5. Pete: I want to apply for another J1 visa (I'm from New Zealand and still eligible) except I'm currently on holiday in London. Can I apply for the visa from here through the Embassy without returning home first?

\* U.S. Consular Officer: If you are legally present in the United Kingdom, then you may file a nonimmigrant visa application at the Embassy here in London. However, you must demonstrate at the interview that you will return to your residence abroad after your temporary stay in the United States.

6. Sumit Nath: Hi, I am an international student from India studying in a university in UK. I would like to travel to USA during my Christmas holidays for a vacation. How do I apply for a VISA and what documents do I need to provide?

\* U.S. Consular Officer: If you wish to travel to the United States on holiday, you will require a B-2 (tourist) visa. For full details of the application procedure, please refer to: <http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html>

Please Note: You must demonstrate that you will return to your residence abroad after your temporary stay in the United States. The interviewing consular officer may ask the applicant to provide documentary evidence of the following: (1) funds sufficient to cover all expenses while in the United States; and (2) a residence abroad to which he/she intends to return at the end of the stay in the United States. This is generally established by evidence of family, professional, property, employment or other ties and commitments to some country other than the United States sufficient to cause the applicant to return there at the conclusion of his/her stay.



As each person's circumstances differ, there is no set form in which this evidence takes. The onus is on the applicant to present whatever he believes to be compelling evidence of residence abroad to which he will return.

7. Ritika 2: Hello, I had a quick question regarding the appointments. When I make an appointment, is there a confirmation letter that I will receive for the details agreed upon over the phone? If yes, how would these be communicated to me and how soon?

\* U.S. Consular Officer: If you have scheduled an appointment for a nonimmigrant visa, via the Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042 450 100 (£1.23/min plus network extras), you will receive confirmation of your appointment and your MRV Fee receipt, via email.

Alternatively, you may retrieve this confirmation on the Embassy website, at:

[http://london.usembassy.gov/appointment\\_letter\\_and\\_fee\\_receipt.html](http://london.usembassy.gov/appointment_letter_and_fee_receipt.html)

8. Nafise: Is it possible to cancel an appointment and in that case is the fee refundable?

\* U.S. Consular Officer: Please be advised that the MRV application fee for a nonimmigrant visa is both non-transferrable and non-refundable. However, this fee is valid for 12 months, from the date of payment. If you wish to cancel/reschedule your appointment, please contact the Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042 450 100 (£1.23/min plus network extras).

9. Haider: My friend would like to visit the USA, and he holds a UK Student visa. Does he need to make a visa request from my side; I'm a permanent resident in US?

\* U.S. Consular Officer: Should your friend wish to travel to the United States on holiday, he will require a B-2 (tourist) visa. For full details of the application procedure, please refer to:

<http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html>

10. Veronica Thomson: I am travelling to America in 5 weeks time. I have dual Nationality (British/Australian) and as my British Passport recently ran out I am hoping it will be ok to travel to the US on my Australian Passport. I have already applied and got the VWP Visa for my Aussie passport but will I encounter any problems travelling from the UK where I live to America on my Aussie passport? I am worried something may go wrong at the airport!

\* U.S. Consular Officer: If you meet the relevant qualification criteria for travel under the Visa Waiver Program, you will be required to submit an application to register under the Electronic System of Travel Authorization (ESTA) with the passport details on which you wish to travel to the United States. If approved, this authorization entitles the bearer to travel on an air or sea carrier to the United States; however it does not guarantee entry to the United States. This determination is made by U.S. immigration at the Port of Entry.



11. Roman: I have been granted a US visa (B1/B2) for the period of 10 years as I am a UK resident with a Polish passport. When I entered US in May this year a Departure Record card was attached to my passport with a date of my admission. I left the US and came back to the UK. On the back of the card it says that I should surrender it when leaving the US. I still have it in my passport. What should and can I do now? I am in the UK now. I did not exceed the permitted stay period in the US.

\* U.S. Consular Officer: If you did not surrender the I-94 or I-94W on your departure from the U.S., you are required to return the form to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Please refer to the Embassy website for further guidance, at: <http://london.usembassy.gov/dhs/cbp/i94.html>

12. Ola: I have a visa that in my expired passport that is valid until 20 Dec 2011. Can I travel on it with my new passport in Nov 2011 for a week?

\* U.S. Consular Officer: If the passport in which your visa has been endorsed has expired, the visa in the old passport still can be used, provided that you also carry a valid passport of the same nationality. Please note that if the passport authority has clipped the corners of your passport in canceling it, and, in so doing, has damaged the visa in any way, that visa is no longer valid and cannot be used for travel to the United States.

13. Paul O Connor: I am an Irish citizen living and working in the U.K. I have been offered a job in the U.S. and was wondering if you could advise me which visa to apply for or if my prospective employers need to apply on my behalf. Also, how long will this process take?

\* U.S. Consular Officer: There are several different categories of work visas, but the most common are H and L visas. Generally, employers in the United States need to petition on behalf of the employee. You can read more about the types of non-immigrant visas here: <http://london.usembassy.gov/nonimmigrant-visas.html>

14. Mark: Who do I need to contact to discuss a possible non-immigrant business visa? Can you supply me with contact details please? What I want to do is very specific and I haven't found any suitable information on the website.

\* U.S. Consular Officer: To obtain case-specific information, please contact the Embassy Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042 450 100 (1.23/min plus network extras).

15. Iain McKenzie: I have a USA B1/B2 visa due to expire in February 2012. I am travelling to the USA on vacation for 60 days in Sept & Oct 2011. Is my existing visa still good for this travel? My reason for asking is that I am told visitors with only 90 day visitor visas must have at least 6 months of unexpired time on their passport. Hopefully this rule does not apply to US B1/B2 visas. Can anyone advise please?



\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: Please be advised that your visa is valid for travel to the United States up until its expiration date. The length of time that you are permitted to remain in the United States is determined by U.S. immigration at the Port of Entry. With regard to the validity of your passport, a nonimmigrant visa applicant must present a passport or other valid travel document valid for at least six months beyond the holder's period of stay in the United States, with at least one blank page. NOTE: Some countries have an agreement with the United States to extend the validity of their passports for an additional six months after expiration. To see if your country of nationality is included in this agreement, please refer to:  
<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/104770.pdf>

16. Meng: Dear Officer, I am working in UK but holding a Chinese passport. I am planning to apply for B-1 visa for attending a scientific conference in Washington DC in November. I understand that I should book an appointment as soon as possible but I am not sure when I should schedule the interview (I have another travel plan to Germany before this planned trip to USA). My question is: will my passport be kept by the Embassy after the interview? Or will I need to wait until the Embassy send me a notice asking me to send the passport (three of my friends was asked to send their passport back later rather than at the interview)? I am asking because if there will be a waiting period between the interview and the time I need to send my passport to the Embassy, I can book the appointment for interview before my trip to Germany. If my passport will be kept by the Embassy after the interview, I will have to schedule the interview after I'm back to UK (which means the time left for B-1 visa application will be quite tight).

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: If you have upcoming non-U.S. travel plans, you may request the return of your passport at the time of your visa interview. If your visa application is approved, you will then be required to re-submit your passport to the Embassy at a later date.

17. Kelly Fuller: I am in the process of applying for a VISA and need to send my supporting documents to the Embassy via email, but I've tried about 10 times sending them as an attachment and it keeps failing. Does anybody have any idea why this is? Has anyone else had any problems? There is no contact number to call so I am panicking slightly about this delaying my application.

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: For further assistance, please contact the Embassy Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042 450 100 (1.23/min plus network extras).

18. Elam Singh: Hi, please let me know, I have completed my DS-160, but I'm waiting for confirmation mail.

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: Please be advised that submitting the online visa application Form DS-160 is only one stage in the application process. Applicants are also required to schedule an appointment for a visa interview, which you can do by contacting the Embassy Operator Service on 09042 450 100 (1.23/min plus network extras).



19. Abraham Mathew: My UK visa will expire by the end of March, 2012. I would like to visit US in January, 2012. Can I apply for a visa?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: If you are legally present in the United Kingdom, then you may file a nonimmigrant visa application at the Embassy here in London. However, you must demonstrate that you will return to your residence abroad after your temporary stay in the United States.

20. Anish Paul: I am an Indian citizen working in the UK. Do I need to have a minimum validity left on my UK visa to apply for a B1 visa? I am planning to travel to the US in the last week of January and my current UK visa will expire on the 12th of February 2012. I will not be able to renew my UK visa before October 2011 as my current sponsorship certificate is valid until December 2011.

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: There is no requirement for you to have a certain validity left on your UK visa in order to travel to the United States. However, the consular officer may ask the applicant to provide documentary evidence of the following: (1) funds sufficient to cover all expenses while in the United States; and (2) a residence abroad to which he/she intends to return at the end of the stay in the United States. This is generally established by evidence of family, professional, property, employment or other ties and commitments to some country other than the United States sufficient to cause the applicant to return there at the conclusion of his/her stay. As each person's circumstances differ, there is no set form in which this evidence takes. The onus is on the applicant to present whatever he believes to be compelling evidence of residence abroad to which he will return.

21. Kinga: Hi, I have a visa issued in April 2010 for 10 years; however since then I have gotten married and changed my passport as my name has changed. My questions therefore is, if I can still use my visa with my maiden name, which is in my old passport (it is undamaged) or would I need to re-apply for new visa? I am planning trip to Florida next year and wanted to make sure all my documents are correct.

\* U.S. Consular Officer: A change in name does not in and of itself invalidate a visa. You should travel with both your new and old passport containing the visa, and your marriage certificate.

22. Alan: How many times can I go to the US, for about two months at a time, in a year under ESTA, the Visa Waiver Program?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: Please be advised that travel under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) is appropriate for applicants whom wish to travel to the United States on a temporary basis, after which they return to their permanent residence abroad. Travel under the VWP is not appropriate if you wish to spend the majority of your time in the United States. If this is the case, you will require the appropriate immigrant visa. Please note: If you are spending lengthy



periods of time in the United States under the Visa Waiver Program, you will be questioned by U.S. immigration at the Port of Entry. If you are unable to furnish compelling evidence of a residence abroad to which you will return after your temporary visit, you will be denied entry into the United States. As each person's circumstances differ, there is no set form in which this evidence takes. The onus is on the applicant to present whatever he believes to be compelling evidence of a residence abroad to which he will return.

23. MD: I am starting as cabin crew and need to get the crew visa, however I have a caution on my criminal record, I have got all of the documents that the website states to get, will having a caution on my visa stop me from getting a visa? Also, if I am applying for a crew visa will I still be able to get a holiday visa in a couple of months for my holiday?

\* U.S. Consular Officer: Having a caution will not necessarily lead to a finding of ineligibility. If an applicant is ineligible for a U.S. visa based on a criminal conviction, it will mean a lifetime exclusion from the United States unless he or she obtains a waiver of permanent ineligibility. For more information, please see our website: [http://london.usembassy.gov/add\\_crime.html](http://london.usembassy.gov/add_crime.html)

24. Kapil Kapoor: Hello sir, I am an Indian citizen currently living in the UK for 3 years now. I want to visit NEW YORK this Christmas. I do not know anybody in USA, so if I book a hotel online and provide the embassy with booking details, would that suffice as I do not want to book my flight until I get the visa? Also one of my friends would like to join me on the trip. He is a Pakistani citizen currently living in UK for 4 years now. Could his nationality affect our trip or visa application in any way?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: When completing the online visa application Form DS-160, you are advised to only enter provisional details in the hotel/flight sections. Applicants are not advised to make any firm travel arrangements until a visa has been issued and they are in receipt of their passport. Please Note: With regard to your friend, if he is legally present in the UK, he may file a nonimmigrant visa application at the Embassy here in London. However, he must demonstrate that he will return to his residence abroad after a temporary stay in the United States.

25. Sylvia: Hi there, I am a 22 year old UK citizen who was born in New Zealand and has dual nationality (UK and NZ). I have studied Landscape Architecture for four years at a New Zealand University and I am in a position to graduate, having finished my degree 6 months ago. I am currently living in the UK and being offered an internship/ trainee position at a New York firm and I was wondering what the logistics are of applying for a J-1 visa as a British Citizen, graduating from a New Zealand university. Am I eligible to apply for the trainee visa or the internship visa? Are there lists of approved J-1 visa sponsors I need to pay and apply through? Do I need to make an appointment at the consulate and if so, what documentation do I need?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: For full details of the J-1 visa application procedure, please refer to the Embassy website, at: <http://london.usembassy.gov/exchange.html>





26. Syed: I applied for B2 Visa on 16th August 2011. Visa Officer gave me the white paper for Administrative Processing and she said you can see your application status online. At the moment my batch number is not appeared on the PDF document yet. Can you please tell me how long it will take for batch number to appear on online .pdf document?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: Please contact the Embassy Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042 450 100 (1.23/min plus network extras) for further assistance.

27. Marta Santos: Hi, I'm a student in a Diploma in Professional Studies, which basically means I spend a year out regular classes doing internships, volunteering and self-initiated projects, I'd like to go to the US for about 4/5 months for internships, and it seems the H1 visa is the most appropriate. Do I have to have a secured internship to apply for it? Am I allowed to earn money during this time? Is there any other visa more appropriate that I may have missed?

\* U.S. Consular Officer: Temporary work visas in the United States, including the H visa, are generally based on a specific offer of employment. If you wish to pursue an internship with a U.S. based employer, you will require either an exchange visitor (J-1) or a trainee visa (H-3). For more information on visa classifications, please visit our website: <http://london.usembassy.gov/nonimmigrant-visas.html>

28. David: For the marginality test for an E2 visa, is there a guideline to the amount of income which must be earned to be above the minimum standard of living please?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: Applicants are required to demonstrate that their enterprise has the present and future capacity to generate more than enough income to provide a minimal living for the treaty investor and his or her family and/or the present or future capacity to make a significant economic contribution.

29. ZAINAB: My husband has a residence/spouse visa for two years. He wants to visit my family in the USA. He has a permanent job in the UK and is settled. What are his chances of getting a visa and what document would he required to provide at his interview

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: Nonimmigrant visa applicants must demonstrate that they will return to their residence abroad after their temporary stay in the United States. The interviewing consular officer may ask the applicant to provide documentary evidence of the following: (1) funds sufficient to cover all expenses while in the United States; and (2) a residence abroad to which he/she intends to return at the end of the stay in the United States. This is generally established by evidence of family, professional, property, employment or other ties and commitments to some country other than the United States sufficient to cause the applicant to return there at the conclusion of his/her stay. As each person's circumstances differ, there is no





set form in which this evidence takes. The onus is on the applicant to present whatever he believes to be compelling evidence of a residence abroad to which he will return.

30. NANA: I am a legal resident in the UK and would like to go on a holiday to the US. What are the supporting documents and entry requirement if I don't have a relative in the US?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: If you wish to travel to the United States on holiday, you will require a B-2 (tourist) visa. For full details of the application procedure, please refer to: <http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html>

Please Note: You must demonstrate that you will return to your residence abroad after your temporary stay in the United States. The interviewing consular officer may ask the applicant to provide documentary evidence of the following: (1) funds sufficient to cover all expenses while in the United States; and (2) a residence abroad to which he/she intends to return at the end of the stay in the United States. This is generally established by evidence of family, professional, property, employment or other ties and commitments to some country other than the United States sufficient to cause the applicant to return there at the conclusion of his/her stay. As each person's circumstances differ, there is no set form in which this evidence takes.

31. Mark: If you have a simple police caution for criminal damage (from 7 years ago) and have a 'no live' trace on your police certificate do you still have to apply for a VISA or can you go through the ESTA system?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: Under United States visa law, anyone who have ever been arrested and/or convicted of an offense is required to apply for a visa. Please refer to the Embassy website for further information, at: [http://london.usembassy.gov/add\\_crime.html](http://london.usembassy.gov/add_crime.html)

32. Debbie: do you need an ESTA for leaving New York to the UK by air when you entered by land from Canada. We will be flying back from New York via Montreal to the UK.

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: If qualified to travel visa free to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program and if entering the United States by land from Canada, the only requirement is that travelers are in possession of a completed form I-94, issued by the immigration authorities at the Port of Entry, and a \$6.00 fee, payable only in U.S. dollars. For further information, please refer to: <http://london.usembassy.gov/vwp3.html>

33. Suzanne Tharme: My 16 year old daughter has the opportunity of attending a performing arts establishment in America which is currently not approved to issue I 20's, however it has been suggested that she may enter under the J visa as an intern via a government approved organization that may sponsor her. If she was to do this till June 2012, could she then apply for a F1 visa in order to study as a student in the US? (I do not want to jeopardize her chance of studying fulltime in the USA for the future).



\* U.S. Consular Officer: For information on whether your daughter is eligible to participate in the program at the performing arts establishment on a J-visa, you should carefully review the information on J visas on our website: <http://london.usembassy.gov/interns.html>. For additional guidance, please contact the Embassy Operator Service on 09042 450 100 (1.23/min plus network extras).

34. Haidar: I applied for an L-1B (blanket) visa. It was approved but then given a white slip with a batch number for administrative processing. The officer told me that within 10days I would be asked for passport. But 2 months have passed. No update till now. Can I know by when my case be cleared?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: For case-specific information, please contact the Embassy Operator Service on 09042 450 100 (1.23/min plus network extras).

35. Zongpei Jiang: Hello Sir/Madam, I am a Chinese student studying in UK, and am going to apply for a B1 visa for attending a scientific conference (Dec. 5th to Dec. 9th) in San Francisco. I also want to take a tourist and visit my friends in US after the conference. Will my visa give me extra time to do this? If so, do I have to book all the air tickets and accommodation before the visa application?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: If you wish to attend a scientific conference in addition to traveling on holiday to the United States, you may be eligible for a B-1/B-2 visa. To apply, please contact the Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042 450 100 (1.23/min plus network extras). Please Note: Applicants are advised not to make any firm travel arrangements until a visa has been issued and they are in receipt of their passport.

36. Jacky Uy: I am holding a UK Visitor Visa at the moment, taking a 2-month vacation here in London. I recently received a job offer from the US which would require me to process an H1B Visa. Am I allowed to process this Visa here in London? Or is there a need for me to go back to my home country? I am originally from Philippines.

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: If you are legally present in the United Kingdom, then you may file a nonimmigrant visa application at the Embassy here in London.

37. Alexandra Sauber: I am currently applying for B-2 visa. I am Russian National and UK Resident. My questions: Do I need to buy tickets before interview with Embassy? I will stay with my friend for several weeks. a) How much money I need to show/ enough for the visa purposes. b) Which documents my friend need to provide besides the invitation letter? Bank statement? Letter from work? Do they have to be originals?



\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: You must demonstrate that you will return to your residence abroad after your temporary stay in the United States. The interviewing consular officer may ask the applicant to provide documentary evidence of the following: (1) funds sufficient to cover all expenses while in the United States; and (2) a residence abroad to which he/she intends to return at the end of the stay in the United States. This is generally established by evidence of family, professional, property, employment or other ties and commitments to some country other than the United States sufficient to cause the applicant to return there at the conclusion of his/her stay. As each person's circumstances differ, there is no set form in which this evidence takes. The onus is on the applicant to present whatever he believes to be compelling evidence of a residence abroad to which he will return.

NOTE: applicants are advised not to make any firm travel arrangements until a visa has been issued and they are in receipt of their passport.

38. CK: Hi there. I am wondering if I am allowed to come to the US on a B2 visa and apply for jobs, obtain sponsorship and have my visa type changed accordingly.

\* U.S. Consular Officer: The B-2 visa is intended for tourist travel. Should you wish to work in the United States, you will require the appropriate temporary work visa. For more information, please see our website: <http://london.usembassy.gov/nonimmigrant-visas.html>

39. Zainab: What documents are exactly needed for a visit visa?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: You must demonstrate that you will return to your residence abroad after your temporary stay in the United States. The interviewing consular officer may ask the applicant to provide documentary evidence of the following: (1) funds sufficient to cover all expenses while in the United States; and (2) a residence abroad to which he/she intends to return at the end of the stay in the United States. This is generally established by evidence of family, professional, property, employment or other ties and commitments to some country other than the United States sufficient to cause the applicant to return there at the conclusion of his/her stay. As each person's circumstances differ, there is no set form in which this evidence takes. The onus is on the applicant to present whatever he believes to be compelling evidence of residence abroad to which he will return. For full details of the application procedure, please refer to: <http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html>

40. David: For the purposes of an E2 visa, if I purchase an LLC, do I then apply for an employee visa or an owner visa?

\* U.S. Consular Officer: For more information on E visas, you may wish to review our February 2011 web-chat, which was devoted entirely to E Visas: [http://photos.state.gov/libraries/unitedkingdom/164203/cons-visa/AmEmbassy\\_London\\_visa\\_webchat12.pdf](http://photos.state.gov/libraries/unitedkingdom/164203/cons-visa/AmEmbassy_London_visa_webchat12.pdf)



You can also find additional information on E visas on our website:

<http://london.usembassy.gov/e.html>

41. Clare: I have applied for a B2 visa and I'm waiting to receive my passport back from the embassy. I am due to fly to the states on Saturday. Does the embassy take into account travel plans/dates?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: To obtain case-specific information, please contact the Embassy Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042 450 100 (1.23/min plus network extras).

42. Veronica Thomson: I have dual nationality (British/Australian) and I am travelling to America in 4 weeks time. I live in the UK but I will be travelling to America on my Australian passport. I have a VWP form authorized. Is this going to be ok with officials at the Airport when I get to America or will I encounter any problems?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: If you are eligible to travel under the Visa Waiver Program, you will be required to submit an application to register under the Electronic System of Travel Authorization (ESTA) with the passport details on which you wish to travel to the United States. If approved, this authorization entitles the bearer to travel on an air or sea carrier to the United States; however it does not guarantee entry to the United States. This determination is made by U.S. immigration at the Port of Entry.

43. Kapil: Hi, how do I apply for a visa at the American Embassy in London?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: If you are legally present in the United Kingdom, then you may file a nonimmigrant visa application at the Embassy here in London. For further information with regard to the various nonimmigrant visa classifications, please refer to the Embassy website, at: <http://london.usembassy.gov/nonimmigrant-visas.html>

44. Tricia Padden: If my family and I go to the USA on holiday, but decide that we would like to stay and work what can we do out there to get a visa?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: The B-2 visa or travel under the Visa Waiver Program is not appropriate for applicants whom wish to work in the United States. Should you wish to work in the United States, you will require the appropriate temporary work visa. For further information, please refer to the Embassy website, at: <http://london.usembassy.gov/nonimmigrant-visas.html>

45. Lee: Hi, I'm a British citizen and graduate looking to move to America to work. I've done some research and I think I need either a H1B or EB3 visa in order to do so. I also believe that you need to have a job offer before you can get one of these visas. Is there any other way to get



into the country to work? Also if I went to America on a tourist visa could I look for work and be able to fill in a H1B visa while I'm over there or do I have to be in the UK?

\* U.S. Consular Officer: You are correct that, in general, work visas are based on a specific offer of employment. Anyone traveling to the United States with the intention of working there requires a nonimmigrant work visa. If you enter the United States on the Visa Waiver Program or on a visitor or business visa, you are not permitted to work.

46. Barbara: My son was going to study in the US as an exchange student for a year but is no longer able to go; he has the visa stamp in my passport, but it will obviously now not be used. Could you advise me if this will in any way affect his entry to the US at a further date as a tourist?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: Please be advised that the Embassy does not cancel nonimmigrant visas as a matter of course. If, however, your son wishes to have his visa officially cancelled, he should contact the Embassy Operator Service on 09042 450 100 (1.23/min plus network extras).

47. Ambs: Hi, My tourist visa to US expires on 11 Dec 2011; can I apply for a new visa before the expiry date of the current visa? How many days before can I apply?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: Please be advised that you may file an application to renew your visa, before it has expired. For details of the application procedure, please refer to the Embassy website, at: <http://london.usembassy.gov/nonimmigrant-visas.html>

48. Zongpei Jiang: Unlike the information for immigrant visa applications provided on the embassy website, I can't find the 'Documents required for the interview' in the non immigrant visa application information. Beside the DS-160 form and passport, is there any other document which MUST be submitted in the interview? Is there a document check list?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: The documents required in support of a nonimmigrant visa application vary depending on the visa classification for which you are applying. Please refer to the appropriate webpage from the Embassy website, for further information, at: <http://london.usembassy.gov/nonimmigrant-visas.html>

49. Karen Mainwaring: I am travelling to America for a 10 day holiday in September. I am a British citizen and looking to travel through the VWP. About 9 years ago I applied for a temporary work visa to travel around the US. I sent all the forms along with my passport. I think it was refused as the initial information was not sufficient. I never followed it up and assumed it was closed. Will this affect my application through ESTA and am I still eligible?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: In order to clarify the status of your previous application, please contact the Embassy Operator Service on 09042 450 100 (1.23/min plus network extras).



50. Aleksandar Sotirov: I have booked an appointment for a visa interview for Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> August. I have paid the MRV fee but I cannot pay for the SEVIS fee because I don't have the information from the Form I-20. I was an exchange student in Indiana last year and had a J1 visa and now I want to go back and study in the same high school. I contacted Indiana Department of Education about the I-20 but they told me the I-20 is not issued for high schools-, only for colleges. So I don't have an I-20 and I can't pay the SEVIS fee. What should I do?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: In order to seek further clarification with regard to your nonimmigrant visa appointment and the required supporting documentation, please contact the Embassy Operator Service on 09042 450 100 (1.23/min plus network extras).

51. Jaz: I am a British citizen, however I am flying to New York from Colombia and flying back to Ecuador, which form do I need to fill in?

\* U.S. Consular Officer: If qualified, you may be eligible to travel visa free to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program. For full details of the relevant qualification criteria, please refer to the Embassy website, at: <http://london.usembassy.gov/vwp.html>

Travelers in transit through the United States who do not qualify to travel visa free under the Visa Waiver Program require valid C-1 visas. For further information, please refer to the Embassy website, at: <http://london.usembassy.gov/transit.html>

52. Debbie: how do you verify your departure at the airport when you entered the USA by land from Canada but leaving by air to return home to the UK.

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: Foreign visitors to the United States complete an I-94 (white in color), if they hold a valid visa, or an I-94W (green in color), if traveling visa free under the Visa Waiver Program. The card is obtained from the transportation carrier and must be surrendered to an inspector of the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at the port of entry in the United States when applying for admission. The inspector separates the bottom part of the card and attaches it to the passport. The part attached to the passport notes the date of entry to the United States and authorized period the visitor may remain in the country. When a visitor departs the United States, the transportation carrier representative, usually at the check-in counter, should remove the I-94 or I-94W from the passport.

53. Ambs: I have had a US tourist visa for 5 years and need to renew it. I am a resident in UK since last 4 years and i was taking a year off from work for finishing a master's degree. I will be back at work soon. Does not being in a job right now negatively impact upon my chance of getting a US tourist visa?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: There is no requirement for you to be employed in order to apply for a B-2 (tourist) visa to the United States. However, the consular officer may ask the applicant to



provide documentary evidence of the following: (1) funds sufficient to cover all expenses while in the United States; and (2) a residence abroad to which he/she intends to return at the end of the stay in the United States. This is generally established by evidence of family, professional, property, employment or other ties and commitments to some country other than the United States sufficient to cause the applicant to return there at the conclusion of his/her stay. As each person's circumstances differ, there is no set form in which this evidence takes. The onus is on the applicant to present whatever he believes to be compelling evidence of residence abroad to which he will return.

54. Salavaria: I hold a British passport. I've been offered a temporary, specialist job (writing in the games industry) in the USA but I don't know which visa I need to apply for. I also need to know if I have to have an interview in London. I'm expected to travel at the end of September. Do I have time for this to be processed?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: There are several different categories of work visas, but the most common are H and L visas. Generally, employers in the United States need to petition on behalf of the employee. You can read more about the types of non-immigrant visas here: <http://london.usembassy.gov/nonimmigrant-visas.html>

55. NANA: what type of visa do you need to apply for if you have an invitation to visit the USA?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: If you wish to travel to the United States on holiday, you will be required to apply for a B-2 (tourist) visa. For further information and full details of the various nonimmigrant visa applications, please refer to the Embassy website, at: <http://london.usembassy.gov/nonimmigrant-visas.html>

56. Dave: Do you need to apply for a visa for a holiday to America if you have a drink driving charge?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: Under United States visa law, anyone who have ever been arrested and/or convicted of an offense is required to apply for a visa. Please refer to the Embassy website for further information, at: [http://london.usembassy.gov/add\\_crime.html](http://london.usembassy.gov/add_crime.html)

57. Suzanne Tharme: What time period can a J visa be issued for and does it allow for trips back to the UK at regular intervals i.e. for holiday breaks?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: The validity of a visa is determined by the Consular Officer at the time of the visa interview. A multiple-entry visa is required in order to enter the United States on more than one occasion during the validity of the visa.

58. Tracy: Hi I am a little confused, I am a UK citizen and I have a full time offer off employment in the US, should I be applying for the non immigrant or immigrant visa?





\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: There are several different categories of nonimmigrant work visas. Generally, employers in the United States need to petition on behalf of the employee. You can read more about the types of non-immigrant visas here:  
<http://london.usembassy.gov/nonimmigrant-visas.html>

59. ASHISH: Hi, I am an Indian Passport holder living in the UK for the past 10 months. As my current UK visa is expiring this October I have submitted my application for UK visa renewal through my employer in the UK. However, I need to visit the US for a few days in mid November 2011...Was wondering if I can now apply for a US visa intended for travel in November based on a UK visa which is valid up to the end of October?

\* U.S. Consular Officer 2: There is no requirement for you to have a certain validity left on your UK visa in order to travel to the United States. However, the consular officer may ask the applicant to provide documentary evidence of the following: (1) funds sufficient to cover all expenses while in the United States; and (2) a residence abroad to which he/she intends to return at the end of the stay in the United States. This is generally established by evidence of family, professional, property, employment or other ties and commitments to some country other than the United States sufficient to cause the applicant to return there at the conclusion of his/her stay. As each person's circumstances differ, there is no set form in which this evidence takes. The onus is on the applicant to present whatever he believes to be compelling evidence of residence abroad to which he will return.

The webchat ended at 13:00 BST